

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 6-17 are allowed.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-5 and 18-22 are amended.

Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Luo, during the March 15, 2005 personal interview. In particular, Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for the indication made during the personal interview that the above outlined claim amendments overcome the Matsushiro reference. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,201,612 to Matsushiro et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

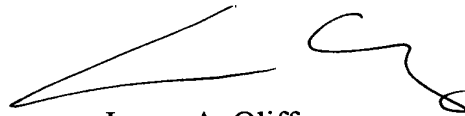
As discussed during the personal interview, Matsushiro discloses detecting and preventing possible problems associated with an edge content in a block of data. See col. 5, lines 4-6. As agreed to during the personal interview, Matsushiro does not disclose or suggest inputting data indicating a grayscale of an individual pixel, the input data including a plurality of specific grayscales; and, when one of the specific grayscales in said input data of the individual pixel corresponds to a specific grayscale value of the image output apparatus and causes a defect in an output of said image output apparatus, converting at least part of said input data of an individual pixel into grayscale data which specifies a grayscale value other than the specific grayscale value, as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 3-5 and 18-22.

For at least the above reasons, and as agreed to during the personal interview, Matsushiro does not disclose each and every element recited in claims 1, 3-5 and 18-22, and claim 2 depending therefrom. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GXL/sqb

Attachment:  
Request for Continued Examination

Date: March 28, 2005

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